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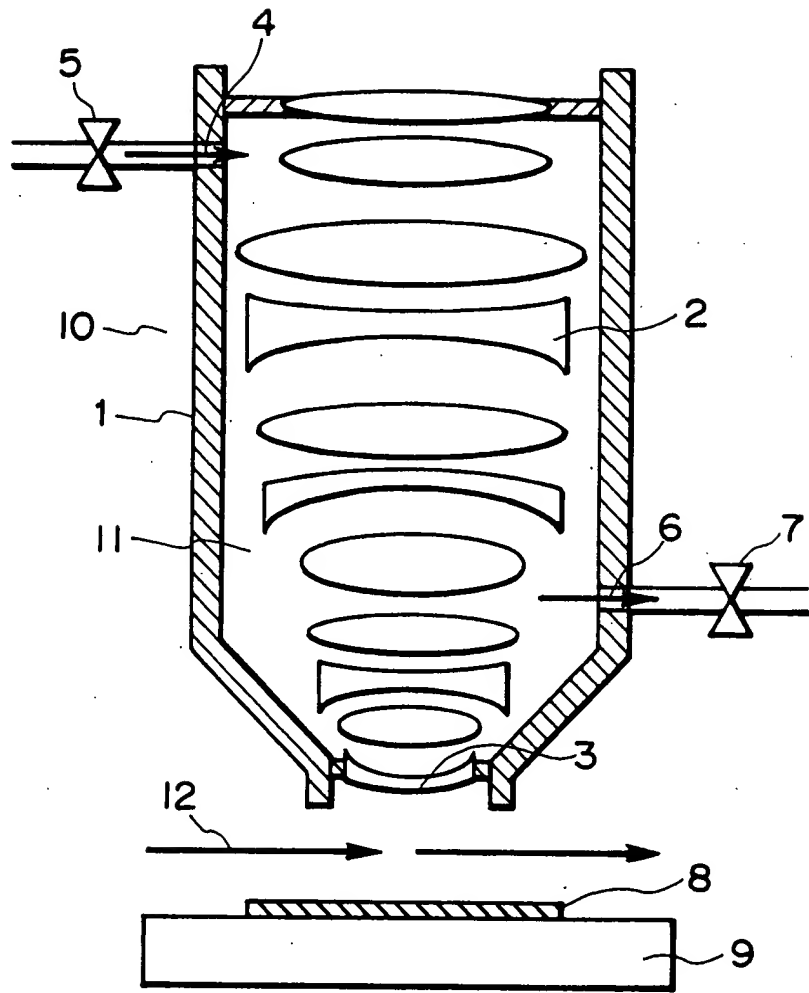


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

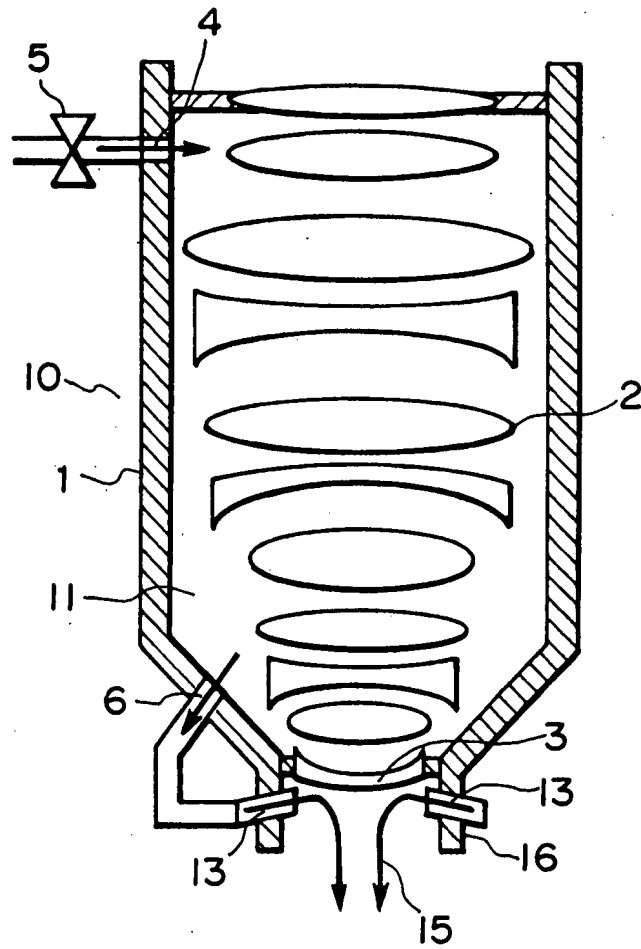


FIG. 3

A schematic diagram of a vacuum furnace. The main chamber (1) is a vertical cylinder with a hatched wall. Inside, there are five horizontal heating zones (2) represented by ovals. The top zone (4) is at the top, and the bottom zone (3) is at the bottom. The furnace is connected to a vacuum system. On the left, a vertical pipe (10) with a valve (5) leads to a horizontal pipe (11) that enters the top of the chamber. On the right, a horizontal pipe (6) exits the chamber. At the bottom, two angled pipes (13) lead from the chamber to a base (8) which sits on a support (9). Each angled pipe has a valve (14) and a flange (16). A horizontal pipe (15) with a valve (33) is also connected to the base. The bottom of the chamber has a flange (17).

FIG. 4

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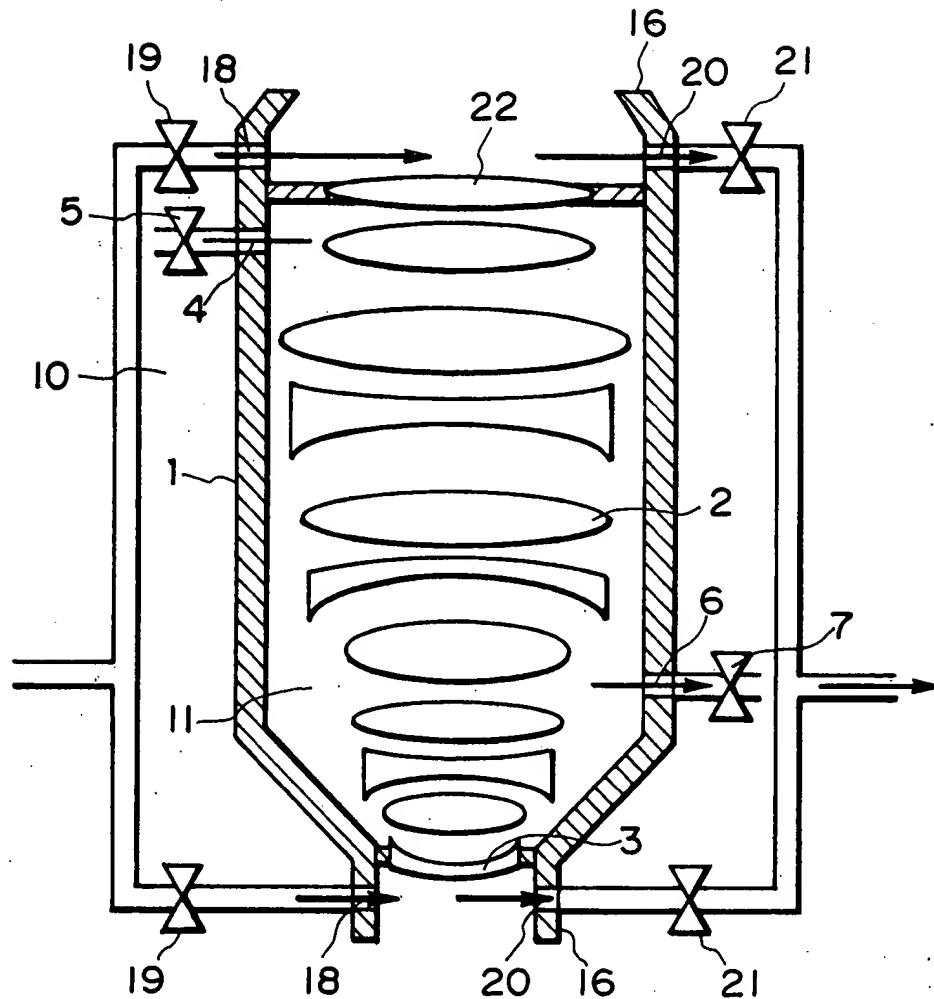


FIG. 5A

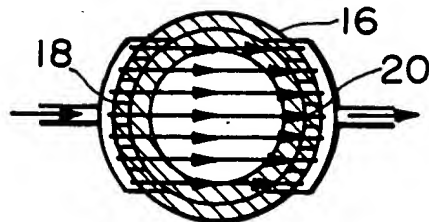


FIG. 5B

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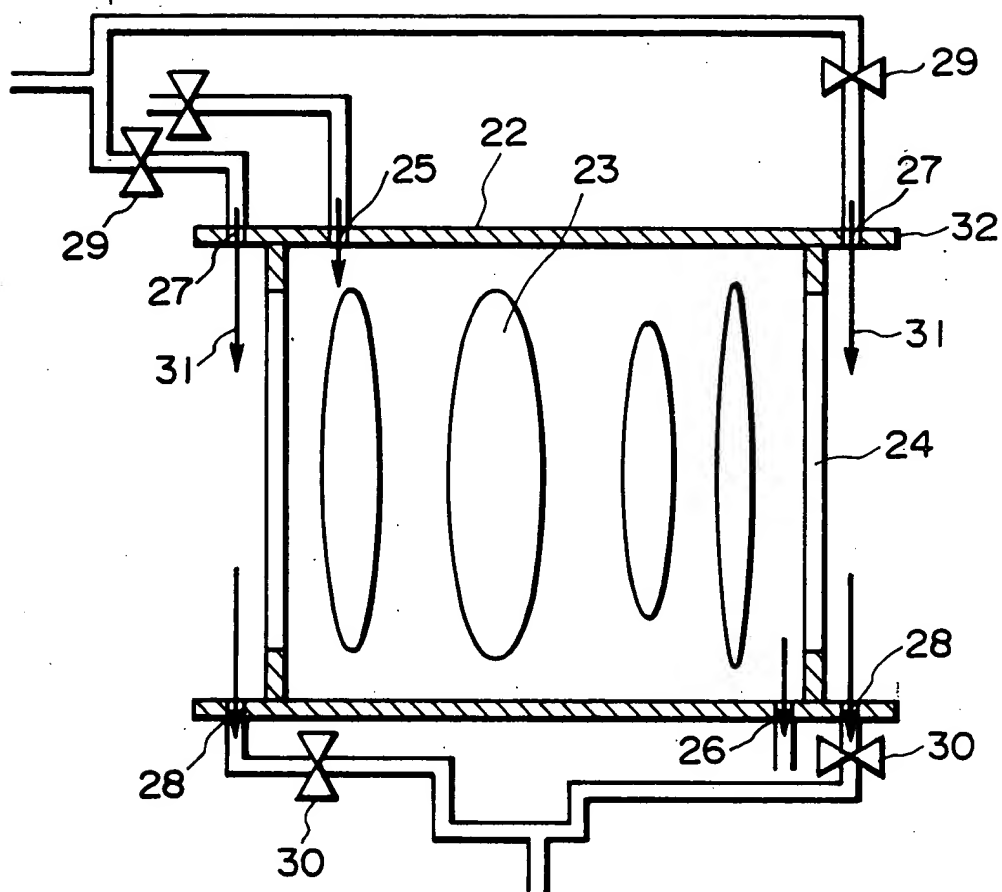


FIG. 6

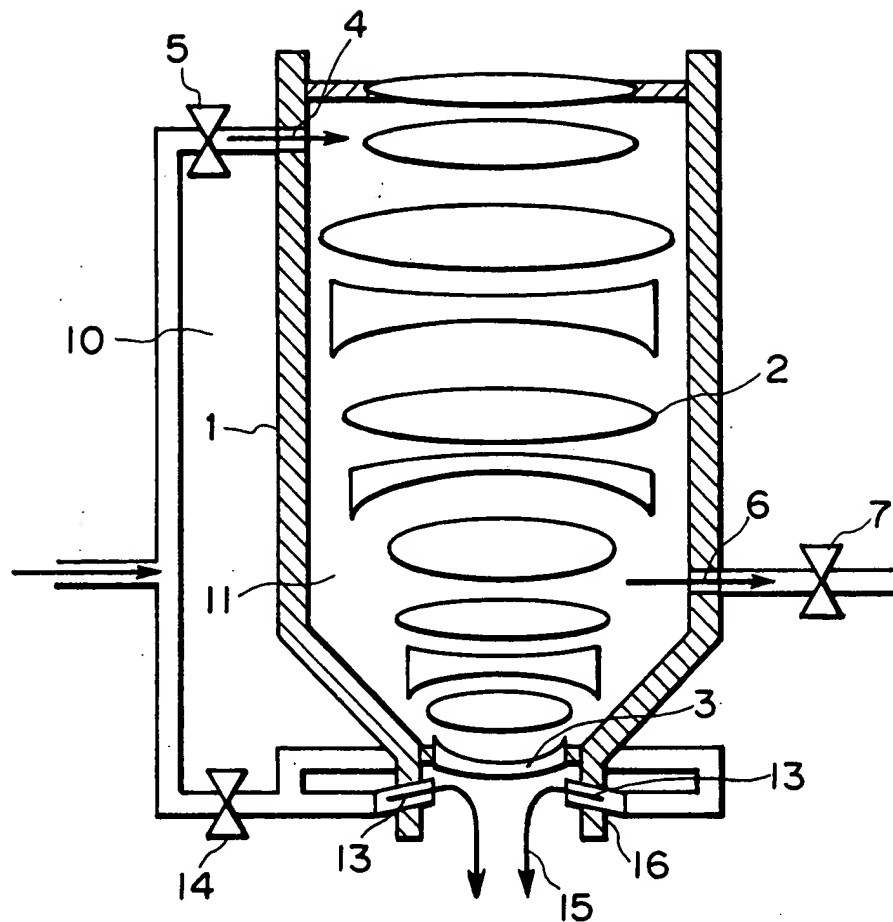


FIG. 1A

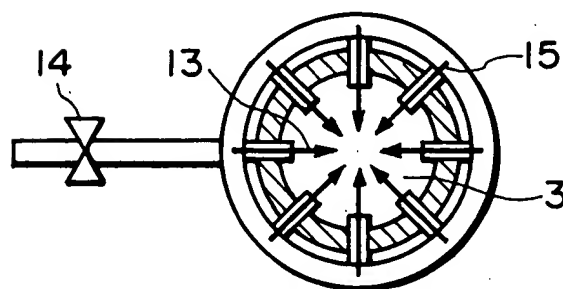


FIG. 1B